

## SYLLABUS

SEMESTER OFFERED: Spring 2010

**COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: Psychology 370 – Peace, Conflict, & Violence**

CREDIT HOURS: 3

**INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Dan Mayton**

OFFICE: Spalding Hall, Room 213F

PHONE: 792-2280

E-MAIL: [dmayton@lcsc.edu](mailto:dmayton@lcsc.edu)

FAX: 792-2571

OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Wednesday 10:30 - noon & 2:00-3:00 pm

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is an interdisciplinary introduction to the field of peace psychology with an emphasis on methods of nonviolent conflict resolution. An historical perspective of the causes of war and peace will be used to introduce the basic concepts and theories of peace psychology. Topics will include conflict resolution, negotiation, bargaining, nonviolence, political participation, and activism. The content and applications of concepts will draw upon current national and international situations.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Mayton, D. M. (2009). *Nonviolence and peace psychology: Intrapersonal, interpersonal, societal, and world peace*. New York: Springer. [ISBN: 978-0-387-89347-1]

Pilisuk, M. (2008). *Who benefits from global violence and war: Uncovering a destructive system*. Westport, CT: Praeger Security International. [ISBN: 978-0-275-99435-8]

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

To satisfactorily complete this course, students must demonstrate the following:

1. Understanding of the various meanings of peace and the implications of peace at the personal, interpersonal, and international levels.
2. Knowledge of the background, characteristics of the lives, and teaching or writings of individuals known for their nonviolent behavior (Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Leo Tolstoy, Jesus Christ, and others).
3. Knowledge of the attitudes, values, and personality of individuals predisposed to violent and nonviolent conflict resolution strategies.
4. Knowledge of the causes of conflict, violence, and war.
5. Knowledge of and the ability to analyze major points of concern within selected intrapersonal, interpersonal, group, and regional conflicts.
6. Knowledge of and the ability to analyze the ways that religion can foster and discourage both peace and war.

### **Note to Students**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with the instructor, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

## **COURSE OUTLINE:**

Week of January 11th - Introductions, Trust Building, and Basic Terminology  
Mayton – Chapter 1

Week of January 18th – History of Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 2  
Your essay outlining the meaning of peace for you is due Friday of this week at 5:00 pm in the instructor's mailbox in Spalding 101A.

Week of January 25th – More History of Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 2

Week of February 1st - Theories of Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 3

Week of February 8th – Intrapersonal Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 4

Week of February 15th – Intrapersonal Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 4  
Your review of a movie dealing with ethnic, human rights, and/or religious conflicts is due on Monday of this week by 5:00 pm in Spalding Hall Rm 101A.

Week of February 22nd – Interpersonal Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 5

Week of March 1st – Conflict Resolution and Conflict Prevention  
Mayton – Chapter 5

Week of March 8th – Causes of Direct Violence and War  
Pilisuk – Chapters 1 & 2  
Your review of a war movie is due on Monday of this week by 5:00 pm in Spalding Hall Rm 101A

Week of March 15th – Spring Break

Week of March 22nd – Weapons of Mass Destruction

Week of March 29th – Structural Violence and War  
Pilisuk – Chapters 3, 4, & 5

Week of April 5th – Cultural and Societal Perspectives of Nonviolence  
Mayton – Chapter 6  
Your book review/analysis is due by Friday of this week at 5:00 pm in the instructor's mailbox in Spalding 101A.

Week of April 12th – RealPolitik, Disinformation and the Mi-E-Go Complex  
Pilisuk – Chapters 6, 7, & 8  
Mayton – Chapter 8

Week of April 19th - Nonviolence Perspectives of Judaism and Christianity  
Mayton – Chapter 7

Week of April 26th - Nonviolence Perspectives of Islam and Bahá'í  
Mayton – Chapter 7

Week of May 3rd – Pulling it All Together for a Culture of Peace  
Mayton – Chapter 10  
Your essay analyzing your personal level of nonviolence is due by Friday of this week at 5:00 pm in the instructor's mailbox in Spalding 101A.

Week of May 10th - Final Examination Week  
Your personal action plan for peace is due Tuesday May 11th at noon in the instructor's mailbox in Spalding 101A.

#### **METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

Grades will be based on student performance on a series of activities which reflect the course objectives. The course activities and the maximum number of points for each activity within the 500 point system used to evaluate students are as follows:

Essay outlining the meaning of peace for you	50
War Movie Review	20
Ethnic/Religious Conflict Movie Review	20
Quizzes/In class activities (10 points each)	100
Brief papers/activities (variable points each)	100
Review of a book dealing with positive peace or nonviolence	50
Self-analysis of nonviolent disposition	50
Personal action plan for peace	50
Class attendance/participation/contributions to class discussions	60

Final course grades will be assigned on a percentage basis as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Percentage of Points</u>	<u>Total Points</u>
--------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

A	93 - 100 %	465 - 500
A -	90 - 92.9 %	450 - 464
B +	87 - 89.9 %	435 - 449
B	83 - 86.9 %	415 - 434
B -	80 - 82.9 %	400 - 414
C +	77 - 79.9 %	385 - 399
C	73 - 76.9 %	365 - 384
C -	70 - 72.9 %	350 - 364
D +	67 - 69.9 %	335 - 349
D	60 - 66.9 %	300 - 334
F	59% or lower	299 or less

Assignments not completed on time will be penalized 10% of the maximum point total allotted per class period that it is late. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks late. Any assignments which do not meet acceptable standards regarding correct grammar usage, logical organization and accuracy of presentation will need to be redone. The final point total for each assignment will be the average of all work completed up to and including the competent completion of the assignment.

Quizzes will be administered unannounced every 2 or 3 class sessions. While quizzes cannot be made up if you are not in attendance, only the best ten scores for all quizzes will be used in computing your grade.

### **Essay Outlining the Meaning of Peace for You**

The required readings and class lectures and discussions have presented numerous views of peace. Provide your own personal definition of peace in a 2-3 page essay (typed and double spaced with 1" margins). Be sure to reference the concepts and terms you draw from others in APA style.

### **Ethnic/Human Rights/Religious Conflict Movie Review**

You are to view and review one movie about an ethnic, human rights, and/or religious conflict in terms of the presence of both direct and structural violence, as well as, your own personal reaction to the events depicted in the movie. Reviews should be 2-3 pages (typed and double spaced with 1" margins). Good movies to consider are The Seige, Michael Collins, In the Time of the Butterflies, Mission Kashmir, Lagaan, Ararat, Before the Rain, and Malcom X.

### **War Movie Review**

You are to view and review one movie about an actual war in terms of the presence of both direct and structural violence, as well as, your own personal reaction to the events depicted in the movie. Reviews should be 2-3 pages (typed and double spaced with 1" margins). Good movies to consider are We Were Soldiers, Wind Talkers, Thin Red Line, Saving Private Ryan, Apocalypse Now, Das Boot, Glory, Black Hawk Down, Cold Mountain, and The Patriot.

### **Review of a Book Dealing with Positive Peace or Nonviolence**

The intent of this assignment is help you develop a better understanding of the background, characteristics of the lives and teachings of individuals known for their nonviolent behavior and activities for a positive peace in the world (e.g. Martin Luther King, Leo Tolstoy, Jesus Christ,

William Penn, Judith Rankin, Greg Mortenson, and many others). Your book review/analysis may be of an autobiography, biography, a proscriptive book on the teachings of, or a book about a person noteworthy for their involvement in positive peace or nonviolence. Your review should be 3-5 pages, typed and double spaced with 1" margins. Evaluation of your book review/analysis will be based on the following criteria (1) Summary and Key points relevant to peace psychology - 20 points, (2) Critique and Analysis of the content - 20 points, and (3) Organization and Mechanics - 10 points. Be sure to get your book approved for this assignment by the end of the third week of class.

### **Self-analysis of Nonviolent Disposition**

You have taken assessments of nonviolent tendencies, have read about the nature of nonviolence, and have studied several nonviolent individuals over the course of the semester. Your self-analysis should explain why you think you have a strong, moderate, or weak nonviolent disposition. You should provide objective and subjective evidence to support your position. How you support your position is the most important aspect of your analysis. Your self-analysis should be a 3-5 page paper, typed and double spaced with 1" margins. Evaluation of your self-analysis will be based upon (1) your overall assessment of your nonviolent disposition based on objective and subjective evidence – 30 points, (2) organization and rationale of your arguments – 10 points, and (3) mechanics of your writing – 10 points.

### **Personal Action Plan for Peace**

You have written an essay which outlined the meaning of peace for you. This culminating activity should be a written 5-8 page paper, typed and double spaced with 1" margins. You should describe a plan for your personal involvement in making peace a reality. What could you do to bring about "world peace"? Be sure you define peace and then provide a series of activities you can pursue to make your view of peace a reality. (Nothing is not acceptable.) Try to be honest and realistic in your plan. The criteria to be used in evaluating your plan are as follows (1) your updated definition of peace - 10 points, (2) mechanics of paper - 10 points, (3) outline of specific activities - 20 points, and (4) prognosis for completion of personal action plan - 10 points.

### **Class Participation/Contributions to Class Discussions**

Because this course is structured into a seminar format, class attendance and participation in the class discussions and activities is important. Each student's overall contributions to the class will be evaluated by the instructor on four separate occasions throughout the semester (February 5th, March 5th, April 9th, and May 7th). Each of these subjective evaluations will be worth fifteen points. Attendance will be recorded and three points will be subtracted from these totals for every class missed beyond one absence per quarter.